

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

On page 7, in line 1 cancel "Claims" and substitute:

**--I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:--** therefor.

Cancel claims 1-15.

5           1-15. (Cancelled)

Add the following new claims:

16.   (New) An implantable medical device comprising:

a mode control that operates device components in a normal mode,  
including a test mode, and in at least one other mode outside of  
10           said normal mode;

a signal detector, responsive to an external activation, connected to  
said mode control;

a programmable timer connected to said mode control, said  
programmable timer being programmable to set a specified time  
15           period; and

said mode control operating said device components in said other  
mode of operation outside of said normal mode if said external  
activation is detected by said signal detector during said time  
period, and causing said device components to operate in said  
20           test mode, within said normal mode, if said external activation is  
detected by said signal detector outside of said time period.

17.   (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16  
wherein said mode control is programmable, simultaneously with  
programming of said timer, to operate said device components in a safe  
25           operating mode as said other mode of operation outside of said normal mode.

18.   (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16  
wherein said timer is programmable to set said time period to be less than five  
days.

19. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said timer is programmable to set said time period to be less than five hours.

20. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said signal detector emits a detection signal in a detection state upon detection of said external activation.

21. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 20 wherein said signal detector continues to emit said detection signal in said detection state as long as said external activation persists.

22. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 21 wherein said mode control maintains said device components in said other mode of operation outside of said normal mode if said time period expires but said detection signal is in said detection state.

23. An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said timer begins said time period simultaneously with programming of said timer.

24. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said timer begins said time period at a predefined time after said programming of said timer.

25. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said signal detector is a magnetic sensor responsive to an external magnetic field as said external activation.

26. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said signal detector is an optical sensor responsive to light as said external activation.

27. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said signal detector is a radio signal detector responsive to radio

signals generated by an external programmer that is also used to program said timer.

28. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 27 wherein said signal detector is responsive to a signaling message comprised  
5 of electromagnetic pulses coded to indicate activation, as said external activation.

29. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 28 wherein said signal detector emits a detector signal in a detection state beginning with said electromagnetic pulses coded to indicate activation, and  
10 ends said time period upon detection of a signaling message comprised of electromagnetic pulses coded to mean deactivation, by ceasing to emit said detector signal in said detection state.

30. (New) An implantable medical device as claimed in claim 16 wherein said device components comprise components adapted to stimulate  
15 a heart.